apparatus unless such known process results in a new product or employs at least one new reactant".

Section 3(e) "a substance obtained by a mere admixture resulting only in the aggregation of the properties of the components thereof or a process for producing such substance".

(f) Information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth rate of exports and imports

2326. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of growth of exports is considerably less in comparison to import items in our country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government to decrease our import items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) According to the figures provided by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the growth rate of exports and imports during the last three years is as given under:

(In US$ Million)

Year	Exports	Growth Rate (in %)	Imports	Growth Rate (in %)
2001-02	43827	-1.6	51413	1.7
2002-03	52719	20.29	61412	19.45
2003-04	63843	21.10	78150	27.25

(c) There are no measures to restrict imports or artificially balance trade that may lead to dampening of the growth of the economy or lead to resurgence of inflationary pressures. However, export promotion is a constant endeavour of the Government and a Foreign Trade Policy was announced on 31st August, 2004 with the objective of doubling India's overall share of global merchandise trade within the next five years.